

THE WEATHER OF THE ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC OCEANS

[Marine Division, W. F. McDONALD, in charge.]

NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN

By F. A. YOUNG

The weather over the eastern section of the ocean during May was somewhat quieter than usual, gales occurring on from one to four days in different 5° squares in that region. Over the western section disturbances of any importance were unusually rare, as gales were not reported on more than one day in any 5° square west of the forty-fifth meridian.

The comparatively small departures at most of the coast and island stations as shown in Table 1, indicate that the pressure distribution over the greater part of the ocean was not far from normal.

The most unusual feature of the month was the remarkably severe disturbance near the Equator on the 2d, as reported by the observer on board the Norwegian M. S. *Imä*, and shown in table of gales and storms.

TABLE 1.—Averages, departures, and extremes of atmospheric pressure at sea level, 8 a. m. (seventy-fifth meridian) North Atlantic Ocean, May, 1931

Stations	Average pressure	Departure	Highest	Date	Lowest	Date
	Inches	Inch	Inches		Inches	
Belle Isle, Newfoundland	29.87	-0.07	30.40	24th	29.20	4th.
Halifax, Nova Scotia	29.98	+0.01	30.28	7th	29.54	15th.
Nantucket	29.96	-0.03	30.20	1st	29.56	14th.
Hatteras	29.99	-0.04	30.24	28th	29.64	13th.
Key West	29.96	-0.02	30.12	15th	29.82	31st.
New Orleans	30.00	0.00	30.20	15th	29.83	8th.
Turks Island	30.00	0.00	30.12	16th	29.92	30th.
Bermuda	30.05	-0.06	30.26	19th	29.86	14th.
Horta, Azores	30.16	+0.02	30.32	2d	29.90	8th.
Lerwick, Shetland Islands	29.82	+0.02	30.19	8th	29.36	15th.
Valencia, Ireland	29.75	-0.20	30.20	8th	29.34	29th.
London	29.87	-0.05	30.25	9th	29.46	17th.

¹ From normals shown on Hydrographic Office Pilot Charts, based on observations at Greenwich mean noon, or 7 a. m., seventy-fifth meridian time.

² From normals based on 8 a. m. observations.

³ And on other date or dates.

As in April, fog was unusually prevalent over the western section of the ocean, and the number of days on which it was reported in different localities is as follows. Over the Grand Banks, from 12 to 14 days; along the American Coast between the thirty-fifth and fortieth parallels, on 12 days; along the American coast north of the fortieth

parallel, from 12 to 16 days; over the steamer lanes between the tenth and fortieth meridians, from 1 to 2 days; off the coast of Europe, from 1 to 5 days; in the Gulf of Mexico, on 3 days.

During the first four days of the month moderate conditions prevailed generally, except for the depression that was off the south coast of Newfoundland on the 4th, and afterwards developed into a disturbance that reached its greatest intensity on the 7th and 8th, and is shown on Charts VIII to XI covering the period from the 5th to 8th.

A second disturbance that was over the mid-eastern section of the steamer lanes on the 11th moved slowly eastward and on the 13th was centered about 300 miles west of Valencia, Ireland.

From the 17th to the 23d moderate to strong gales were reported by a number of vessels over a considerable area in mid-ocean, while during this period moderate weather prevailed west of the fortieth meridian.

From the 24th until the end of the month there ensued a period of comparatively slight wind movement, and few reports were received from vessels encountering a wind force of 7 or over, although on the 29th the land stations at Cape Race, Newfoundland, and Lerwick, Shetland Islands, both reported winds of force 8 with rain.

Notes.—British steamship *Coronado*, Capt. A. W. Legge; observer, G. Binks, third officer. From Avonmouth to Jamaica:

Sunday, May 10, 1931, at 2.30 p. m. A. T. S., in latitude 21° 34' N., longitude 71° 05' W., observed a waterspout bearing WSW., approximate distance 10 miles. Barometer 29.91 inches. Clouds Cu. Nb. 2. The spout was vertical and very well defined, very dark at the top, base becoming lighter in the middle. The sea at the base was disturbed and rose up conically to the spout that lasted about 5 minutes, finally being dispersed in a heavy rain squall. Half an hour later while lying off Grand Turk another waterspout was observed appearing to lie over Caicos Island. This spout was identical in size and shape to the former and lasted about 7 minutes, finally dispersing in heavy rain.

Lekhaven, Dutch steamship, Capt. T. Yaski; observer, Y. M. Groenweg, second officer. From Buenos Aires to Amsterdam:

At 5 a. m. May 26, 1931, in latitude 34° 40' N., longitude 15° 32' W., saw a waterspout, distance about 6 miles, height about 10 degrees. Wind SW., 2. Barometer 30.03 inches. Temperature, air 65°; water 65°. Blue sky, smooth sea, slight confused swell.